



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development  
6565 Amarillo Boulevard West, Suite C, Amarillo, Texas 79106

Phone: (806) 468-8600, Ext. 4 • Fax: (806) 468-7248 • TDD: (254) 742-9712 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>

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Contact Name: Clyde Jenkins  
Telephone Number: (806) 468-8600, Ext. 4  
Email: [Clyde.Jenkins@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Clyde.Jenkins@tx.usda.gov)

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES GRANT FUNDING FOR PANHANDLE COMMUNITY SERVICES

**AMARILLO, TEXAS, September 21, 2006**-- USDA Rural Development State Director, Bryan Daniel, today announced Panhandle Community Services has been awarded a \$188,674 Housing Preservation Grant (HPG). USDA Rural Development Housing Programs are designed to strengthen the economy and infrastructure of rural areas. Through its support of the growth and development of communities, the agency works to improve the quality of life in rural America.

"USDA Rural Development is very pleased to be able to provide housing rehabilitation funding for rural Texans," said State Director, Bryan Daniel. "It is our goal to ensure rural residents are afforded an opportunity to live in decent housing that meets health and safety standards and provides the benefits of energy efficient features."

USDA Rural Development funds will be used to assist 30 very-low and low-income families who own and occupy homes that need repairs in 26 Panhandle counties. The repairs will correct health and safety hazards and improve living conditions of the homes of eligible applicants in Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher and Wheeler Counties.

In Fiscal Year 2005, a total of \$637,982 in Housing Preservation Grants was obligated in Texas. The purpose of the HPG Program is to promote continued economic development in rural communities by making grants to sponsoring organizations for the repair or rehabilitation of low and very-low income housing. Grants are competitive and are made available in areas where there is a concentration of need.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Amarillo Local Office at (806) 468-8600, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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